

February 6, 2024

To Whom It May Concern:

We hope this finds you well! We would like to share with you an opportunity to help educate youth in North Carolina about a growing segment of agriculture! It is very challenging for new families to have the funding to buy animals, feed, and the equipment needed to get started raising livestock for the show ring. But we all know, there is nothing better than a hands-on experience. Many youth that participate in these livestock projects continue to be involved in agriculture in their future endeavors. So, we want to enable 10 youth to raise, train, and learn about sheep production through our new regional "Leap into Sheep" program.

The inaugural program was held in 2022 with tremendous success. Not only did we have great participation from the youth that received a lamb, but through the mentor program we were able to see young people give back to the industry that they so thoroughly enjoy.

Through the leadership of NC State Youth Livestock Advisor Brent Jennings, we plan to provide 10 youth a lamb for a fall project. Soon, we will begin accepting applications from 4-H and FFA youth, describing why they should be selected to raise a lamb. Once participants are chosen, they will pay a \$50 registration fee and will be matched up with a senior lamb showman to help guide their experience, serving as a mentor and assisting with preparing their lamb for two spring shows. Participants will attend a Sheep 101 zoom session facilitated by NC State Small Ruminant Professor Andrew Weaver as an introduction to what to expect with raising a lamb. Lambs, a blanket, a bag of feed and a halter will be sent home with the selected youth mid-January. After raising the lamb, youth will show them at the North Carolina State Fair.

Now, to how we need your help. A generous donor has contributed the supplies listed above. But lamb prices are currently high, and we will need \$400 for each lamb purchased, a total of \$4,000 to buy the 10 lambs. Funds for this program will run through Duplin County 4-H. If you need an invoice, contact charmae_kendall@ncsu.edu or 910-271-0897. If you would like to help give a child the opportunity to raise a lamb, please address your check to:

Duplin County Cooperative Extension
165C Agriculture Drive
Kenansville, NC 28349

Check to: Duplin County 4-H, memo line "Leap into Sheep"

Thank you for considering helping us spread the good news of agriculture! We will be sure to get you pictures of your funds being used to make a lamb project possible for new young people.

Sincerely,

Leap into Sheep Committee

Feedback from Participants

Video : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uGXYAvFR2Ik>

“Such a great program!! I am so happy Daniel was able to participate. “
-Barney Grady

“Brinley is very thankful for the opportunity that Leap into Sheep provided! It was a great experience and she has made memories to last a lifetime! Thank you to everyone for their help and for providing such a wonderful program. We look forward to more livestock projects in the future. “
-Lacy Raynor

“Thanks so much! Making memories!”
-Amanda Bader

“Thank you for a fantastic program. Malik had such a great time and learned so much.”
-Jennifer Toutah

